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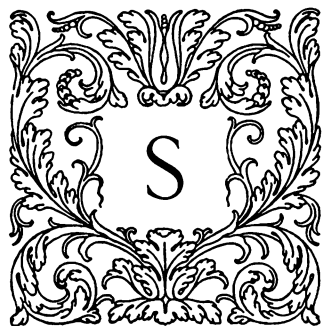
THE LOTUS MAGAZINE

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THE TERCENTENARY OF SHAKESPEARE'S DEATH



SHAKESPEARE died at Stratford-on-Avon, April 23, 1616. Therefore, this month witnesses the tercentenary of his death. In recognition of the importance and character of the celebration, THE LOTUS devotes this issue to it.

From the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, the famous first folio, THE LOTUS reproduces, in facsimile, certain important pages, including the famous lines by Ben Jonson, the title page with portrait, and the interesting list of players. It also reproduces the first and last page of the bard's most famous play, "Hamlet." These are appropriate to three portraits further on in the issue, of great Shakespearian actors, all noted in the title role of this play. They are Garrick, Kemble (who is shown in the character), and Kean.

Four comedies—"Twelfth Night," "The Merchant of Venice," "As You Like It," and "The Taming of the Shrew"—are retold in narrative form. The novelty in the narration consists in the fact that the story of each play is told in the first person singular as a personal experience by the chief woman character in the play—Viola, Portia, Rosalind and Katherine.

The four stories, made from Shake-

spearian comedy, are entitled "The Romantic Adventures of Viola," "Through Wit of Woman" (the woman being Portia, one of Shakespeare's most fascinating characters), "Rosalind in the Woods of Arden," and "The Taming of Kate." In the narratives the Shakespearian lines have been preserved, wherever possible, and when not, a certain quaint touch in the telling retains a general consistency in the style. Probably it is not widely known that many so-called Americanisms, really are relics of Elizabethan English, which was the language spoken by the early settlers of this country and has been less affected over here than in England. Thus "beat it," in our semi-slang sense, is found in the "Comedy of Errors," and "good night," in our humorous way of using it, occurs in "Henry Fourth," Part I, where a character, referring to another's crossing a stream says, "If he fall in, good night!"

In considering how to illustrate these four narratives from Shakespearian comedy, it was decided to use works of art that would conform to the dignity of the Tercentenary. Accordingly there have been used four engravings from the best known—in fact, most famous—illustrated edition of Shakespeare, the Boydell edition. These, THE LOTUS is convinced, will be found appropriate and handsome, besides having the old time flavor, which even the best modern illustrations lack.